



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Inmate Death at MDC Los Angeles

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Thursday, November 26, 2020, inmate Manuel Sassounian tested positive for COVID-19 and was placed in medical isolation at the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) Los Angeles in Los Angeles, California. Institution medical staff provided treatment and monitored his condition. On Sunday, November 29, 2020, he was transported to a local hospital due to chest pain with shortness of breath. On Saturday, December 5, 2020, his condition worsened and he was placed on a ventilator. On Wednesday, December 16, 2020, Mr. Sassounian, who had long-term, pre-existing medical conditions which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by hospital medical staff.

Mr. Sassounian was a 78-year-old male who arrived at MDC Los Angeles on May 7, 2019, under pretrial status awaiting extradition to Lithuania based upon allegations of Forgery, Swindling, and Violating Public Peace and Order.

MDC Los Angeles is an administrative security level facility that currently houses 514 male and female offenders.

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